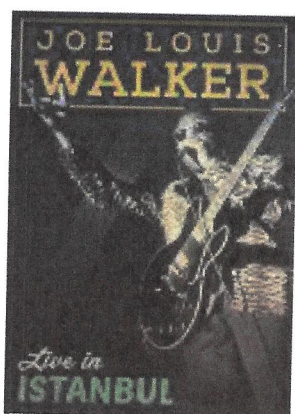


# DVD REVIEWS



## Joe Louis Walker Live in Istanbul (MVE)

Sure I had heard of Joe Louis Walker. I knew he was a member of the Blues Hall of Fame. I also knew that he is a four-time Blues Music Award winner. I had heard his records, but somehow I had missed out on ever seeing him perform, either live or on film, so it is no small surprise that when he and his band kicked off in fifth gear on this concert, I was both mesmerized and blown away at the same time. I love his vocals, his style, his lead guitar and his slide work. The man is a force to be reckoned with! Now I can add "dynamic live performer" to my ongoing list of adjectives when describing Walker.

This ten-song set finds Walker giving 110 percent from start to finish. By the third song, he and the band are drenched in sweat, which seems to only make them play harder, from funky throwdowns to heart-wrenching blues; from heartfelt lead solos that would make Buddy Guy envious, to scorching slide guitar, the band doesn't let up. I really don't know what else there is to say, other than, if you love blues music like I love blues music -if you love to hear a master on guitar - you owe it to yourself to pay a visit to Istanbul. Virtually, of course.

- Michael Buffalo Smith



## The Stray Cats Live at Rockpalast (MIG Music)

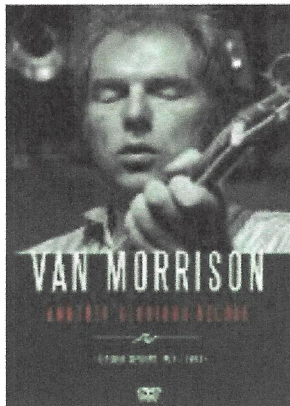
Those rockabilly madmen that ruled the 1980's are captured here in two complete shows, both logging in at around 70 minutes each. The program starts with the must recent concert first, an Open Air show in Loreley, Germany on August 20th, 1983 that found the band on the charts and burning up MTV. Guitarist and singer Brian Setzer, Lee Rocker on bass, Slim Jim Phantom on drums are joined by Mel Collins on Sax. The guys rock it out with passion and fury from top to bottom, beginning with "Baby Blue Eyes," and hitting on crowd pleasers like "Built for Speed," "Runaway Boys," "Stray Cat Strut," "She's Sexy and 17," and "Rock This Town." Of course there are some excellent surprises as well, like Brian pulling out the banjo and playing "Foggy Mountain Breakdown." No kidding! It's rad! And before you can say "blurring the lines," the hip Cats launch into George Jones' "The Race is On!" No we are talking, cats and kittens! Another great cover here is the classic Buddy Holly chart-topper, "Oh Boy!" Seventeen tunes in all, performed in sweat soaked hipster garb on an outdoor stage at the height of the summer heat. Ya gotta love it.

The other show took place two years prior at Satory-Sale Cologne, Germany on July 16, 1981, just as the band was beginning to break big. Brian and company rocked some Eddie Cochran ("Somethin' Else"), Webb Pierce ("Sweet Love On My Mind"), and Charles Underwood's "Ubangi Stomp," along

with originals like “Stray Cat Strut” and “Fishnet Stockings.” Already a crowd favorite, “Runaway Boys” is here too.

Watching the two shows back to back, you can see the growth and maturity The Stray Cats accomplished in two short years. Amazing stuff. Get your neo-rockabilly on and check this DVD out. It’ll get your body rockin,’ cat daddy!

*-Michael Buffalo Smith*



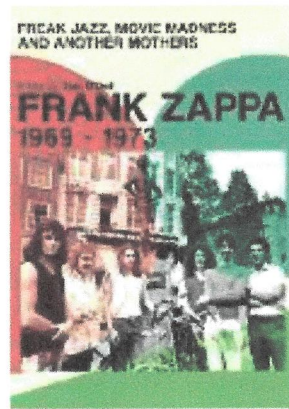
**Van Morrison  
Another Glorious  
Decade  
Under Review 1977-  
1987**

(Sexy Intellectual)

Reappearing in the late 70’s after several years out of the lime light, Van Morrison embarked on a new journey to re-establish himself after becoming a sort of has-been. I suppose there’s a lot of truth to that statement “You’re only as good as your latest record.” During the ten years that began in 1977 he strived to find artistic independence awhile exploring spirituality in his music. After enjoying this documentary, I would say he accomplished his goals. Although his 1977 album *A Period of Transition*, recorded with Dr. John, was not the huge hit one would expect, his next album a year later, *Wavelength* became the fastest selling album of his career, and thrust the singer back into the spotlight.

Rare archived interviews and clips, as well as live and studio footage provide an inside look into the life of this notoriously private musician, performer and writer. Another excellent documentary from Sexy Intellectual’s “Under Review” series.

*- Michael Buffalo Smith*



**Freak Jazz, Movie  
Madness and An-  
other  
Mothers:  
Frank Zappa 1969 –  
1973, A Film By Tom  
O’Dell**

(Sexy Intellectual)

This one is a must have for all Frank Zappa fans. In the summer of

1969, Zappa disbanded the original Mothers of Invention due to what he felt were musical constraints that were being imposed upon him by some band members. Starting with a clean slate, Frank rebuilt the Mothers, including the two lead singers from the Turtles, Flo and Eddie. This excellent documentary includes rare film footage and interviews with Frank himself, along with George Duke, Aynsley Dunbar, Don Preston, Jeff Simmons, Mark Volman, Max Bennett, Sal Marquez, Ian Underwood and 200 Motels director Tony Palmer, along with biographers Ben Watson and Billy James and Mojo Magazine’s Mark Paytress. Also included are rarely seen photographs, which only add more meat to this first documentary to cover the sophomore version of The Mothers of Invention, the film *200 Motels*, from the band that gave us my all time favorite Zappa creation, “Billy The Mountain.” Clocking in at 157 minutes, this is no fly by night doc. It goes deep.

*- Michael Buffalo Smith*

**Izzy Young  
Talking Folklore Center  
(Gazell Records)**

Izzy Young, the guru of American folk music, takes us back to the late 1950s and into the ‘60’s with this documentary covering his legendary Folklore Center in New York. Izzy meets with friends and collaborators like Pete Seeger, Allen Ginsberg, The Fugs, and Mayor Ed Koch to discuss the Folk Center